

Office of the Legislative Auditor General



Annual Report • January 2024

### 2023 Excellence In Evaluation Award

OLAG received the **Excellence in Evaluation Award** from the National Conference of State Legislatures. This award recognized OLAG's devotion to furthering the office's impact. Recognized efforts include:

- Improved communication and messaging
- Revamped emphasis on ensuring audit implementation
- Increased communication with Legislative leadership

The award-granting committee recognized the impact and complexity OLAG's work, including audits such as:

University of Utah Lab Safety – discovered a broken lab safety management system. The University reported that this work "resulted in real changes and improvements that are making peoples' lives safer."

**Justice Reinvestment Initiative** – led to long-term Legislative and agency work on better collaboration and data management in the criminal justice system

**Elections System and Controls** – pointed out significant opportunities to strengthen county use of election controls. The Legislature passed legislation on all the reported opportunities.





During the four-year award period OLAG produced:

- 56 Full Audits 5 In-depth Follow-Ups
  - 15 Informal Letter Reports •



### Introduction

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The Utah State Legislature created the Office of the Legislative Auditor General (OLAG) in 1975. OLAG has constitutional authority to audit any branch, department, agency, or political subdivision of the state.

The Legislative Auditor General is a constitutionally created position with a six-year term of appointment. The Auditor General reports directly to the Legislative Audit Subcommittee of the Legislative Management Committee. The committee is a six-member committee composed of the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, and the House Majority and Minority Leaders.

### What Does the Office of the Legislative Auditor General Do?

OLAG has the constitutional authority to audit any state agency, local government entity, or any entity that receives public funds. These audits review entities for efficiency, effectiveness, and compliance with legal requirements. Audits take, on average, 9 months depending on the scope and complexity of the audit. The office completes one annual in-depth budget review of both a state agency and a local education agency.

#### **How Are Audits Initiated?**

Any legislator can make an audit request by writing a letter to the Legislative Audit

Subcommittee identifying specific issues of concern that the audit should address. Legislators can contact OLAG for assistance with these letters. While a letter of request can originate from one legislator, the request may have a higher likelihood of prioritization if it is signed by a group of legislators. Issues typically given the highest priority are those that have the potential for a significant statewide impact and those that are likely to be addressed by the Legislature during the next session.

#### What Is the Audit Process?

Once an audit is staffed, the team conducts an introductory meeting with the auditee. Auditors then conduct a risk assessment to identify areas with the highest potential for impactful recommendations leading to improvements in efficiency, effectiveness, and compliance. Auditors conduct interviews, gather and analyze data, and review relevant statute and other standards to support the team's findings and recommendations. Throughout the audit process, the team strives to work collaboratively and openly with the auditee.

### **Download Audit Reports**



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### **Audit Subcommittee**

**President J. Stuart Adams, Co-Chair** 

President of the Senate

Senator Evan J. Vickers

Senate Majority Leader

**Senator Luz Escamilla** 

Senate Minority Leader

**Speaker Mike Schultz, Co-Chair** 

Speaker of the House

**Representative Jefferson Moss** 

House Majority Leader

**Representative Angela Romero** 

House Minority Leader

### - Auditor General -

Kade Minchey, CIA, CFE

- Deputy Auditor General -

Brian Dean, CIA, CFE

Darin Underwood, CIA

Audit Manager —

Leah Blevins, CIA

Jesse Martinson, CIA

Quality Assurance

Administrative Assistant

Lauri Felt

Debbie Clawson

Senior Audit Supervisor —

Jake Dinsdale, CIA

Matthias Boone, CIA, CFE

Audit Supervisor —

David Gibson, CISA

August Lehman, CIA, CFE

Nicole Luscher

Ryan Thelin

Madison Hoover

Lead Auditor

Hillary Galvin

McKenzie Cantlon

**Andrew Poulter** 

Abigail Armstrong

Rusty Facer



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### **Auditor Staff Continued**

### - Audit Staff -

Jentrie Willey Kyle Pepp

Brendon Ressler Spencer Hadley

Jake Davis Tanner Taguchi

Morgan Hagey Abigail Jacobsen

Madison Cicon Jason LeGore

Clint Yingling

#### — Audit Intern—

Erick Bravo

Whitney Fitzgerald

### Education Excellence Team —

### — Senior Audit Supervisor —

Chris McClelland, CIA, CFE

#### Lead Auditor

Lindsay Jaynes

### - Audit Staff -

Amanda Hartzler Tanner Cox

Donna C Hernandez Nick Varney

Erin O'Brien

### Government Excellence Team —

### Data Methodologist —

Tyson Cabulagan, CFE

### — Lead Auditor —

Brent Packer Skylar Scott





**Office Impact** 

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The mission of the Office of the Legislative Auditor General is to serve the Utah Legislature and the citizens of Utah by providing objective and credible information, in-depth analysis, findings, and conclusions that help legislators and other decision makers:

- Improve Programs
- Reduce Costs
- Promote Accountability

### **Improving Programs**

We identify changes in statute or agency policies and practices that can help programs more effectively achieve their purposes.

- A Performance Audit of Cybersecurity in the State of Utah found that many entities can decrease the likelihood of serious cyberattacks through a few simple and effective methods. These include adopting a cybersecurity framework, improving communication between IT leadership and administrative leadership, and requiring employees to complete annual cybersecurity training.
- ▶ A Performance Audit of the Utah State

  Correctional Facility made a number of recommendations to improve hiring, retention, strategic planning, and culture at the state prison in order to help improve what had become an unsafe work environment.

In 2023, the Office of the Legislative Auditor General (OLAG) completed 18 audits:

- 15 full audits
- 3 special projects

### **Reducing Cost**

We find savings for Utah taxpayers by identifying ways to run programs more efficiently or collect revenues that agencies are failing to collect.

▶ An In-Depth Budget Review of the Salt Lake City School District (SLCSD) found that SLCSD operates an inefficient number of elementary schools, which increases costs by over \$3.5 million annually. This year, the SLCSD has recommended the closure of four elementary schools in their district. Closing these four schools is estimated to save the district over \$2.2 million annually based on the lowest elementary school operating costs for fiscal year 2021.

### **Promoting Accountability**

We provide information that helps decision makers address important issues, including the adequacy of governance structures.

▶ A Performance Audit of the Intermountain Power Agency provided policy makers with governance options to help improve the oversight of the agency and made recommendations to improve long-term planning in order to promote accountability.



**Office Impact** 

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#### The Best Practice Handbook

The Best Practice Handbook is a resource for all government organizations in Utah. The handbook describes 12 best practices that address common pitfalls that we observe when auditing various organizations.

The best practices in this handbook are



■ aimed at improving effectiveness and efficiency by strengthening organizational cohesion and performance. We believe that applying these

best practices will help organizations better serve the citizens of the state.

#### **Recommendation Status Dashboard**

OLAG follows up on recommendations each year to check the implementation status for each recommendation that has not been fully implemented. Our website now includes a dashboard on recommendation implementation for reports released from 2020 through 2022. Potential legislative action items are also included in the tool.



### 2023 Notable Document Award

The National Conference of State Legislatures and the Legislative Research Librarians Staff Association awarded this notable

document award in recognition of A Performance Audit of Utah's Election System and Controls.



### High Risk List



In the 2023 General Session, the Legislature codified the high-risk list as part of OLAG's regular duties as a way to provide preventative risk services to benefit Utah. In

September 2023, OLAG reported a list of 12 highrisk programs and operations that

- Threaten public funds or programs,
- Are vulnerable to inefficiency, waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement, or
- Require transformation

#### **Website Modernization**

OLAG's website now includes additional information on OLAG's operations and available tools, including OLAG's Best Practices Toolbox,



School District Dashboard, and information regarding 2023 High Risk Areas.



### **Legislative Action Items**

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Based on issues addressed and recommendations made in our 2022 and 2023 audits, we believe the Legislature should consider the following items during the 2024 General Session.

We recognize that whether the Legislature chooses to act on the following items depends on legislative policy decisions that are outside the audit arena.

# ■ 2023-04: A Performance Audit of the Collection, Protection, and Use for Personal Information by State Agencies

Historically, data privacy has not been a primary focus for many state-level entities. Many entities collect personally identifiable information with minimal oversight. The Legislature should consider the merits of passing a data privacy act into statute to provide state agencies with a data privacy governance structure, incorporating principals of data privacy into their practices for data processing and sharing.

# ■ 2023-06: A Performance Audit of Utah's State Energy Policy

We reviewed state energy policies and their implementation. Despite great uncertainty within the industry, the Office of Energy Development's (OED) planning for Utah's energy future is limited. We made four recommendations to improve OED operations and recommended that the Legislature consider requiring OED to adopt best practices in developing actionable goals and recommendations for the state energy plan.

### ■ 2023-10: High Risk List

We reported to the Audit Subcommittee a list of highrisk programs and



operations. The Legislature should review current Legislative priorities in light of the 12 reported High Risk areas.

### ■ 2023-13: A Performance Audit of the Intermountain Power Agency

The aim of this audit was to ensure efficient and effective operations and the protection of Utah residents and resources. It was the first state-level review of IPA since its creation in 1977. The audit made 11 recommendations, with 9 being directed towards the Legislature to address a number of issues involving oversight, operations, accountability, and equity.

# ■ 2023-15 A Performance Audit of Utah's Water Management

Collaboration and coordination are vital to ensure comprehensive planning efforts and to avoid overlap. The Legislature should consider



### **Legislative Action Items**

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strengthening *Utah Code* 73-10-15, outlining cooperation with the Division of Water Resources in the formulation of a state water plan. The Legislature should also consider a comprehensive update of *Utah Code* 73-10-15, 16, and 17 to ensure coordinated efforts in statewide water planning. While *Utah Code* 73-10-17 outlines the Division's authority, it also contradicts it by allowing entities to refuse cooperation.

### ■ 2023-16 A Performance Audit of Utah Housing Policy

Multiple analyses of Utah's historical housing production, forecasted population growth, and city planning data highlight a need for policymakers to encourage more space-efficient housing. This audit encourages the Legislature to take action to orient leaders at all levels of government toward a common vision for housing. This could include statewide strategic planning, as well as housing production targets and changes to local zoning authority.

### 2022-03 A Performance Audit of the Culture and Grant Management Process of the Department of Health

Some language in statute requires DOH to conduct specific activities that largely rely on funds from federal grants. The Legislature should consider revisiting statute to determine if these activities are still priorities.

### ■ 2022-09 An In-Depth Budget Review of the Utah Insurance Department

The Legislature should consider whether it is appropriate for the Captive Division to promote the industry given is role as regulator. There can be potential conflict of interest issues when the Utah Insurance Department's Captive Division is statutorily both the regulator and promoter of the captive insurance industry.

### **Completed Audits**

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Recommendations to: Improve service delivery



Recommendations to: Improve reporting and communication



Recommendations to: Improve cost effectiveness and resources use



Recommendations to: Improve program management



Recommendations for Legislative Action

### **2023 Completed Audits**

2023-01: An In-Depth Follow-Up of Healthcare in State Prisons

Our office concluded that the Clinical Services Bureau has not adequately implemented the 2021 audit recommendations. A culture of noncompliance exists despite management's efforts for corrective action.



This audit found that two San Juan Commissioner's unconventional observance of the Open and Public Meetings Act increased the potential risk of violating statute, and that their use of private council instead of the county attorney decreased the transparency of the commission's work.

2023-03: A Performance Audit of Space Utilization by the Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind

> This audit determined that while the Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind need additional space, inadequate planning has exacerbated the current lack of classroom space.

2023-04: A Performance Audit of Cybersecurity in the State of Utah

This audit reports that many state entities have not adopted a cybersecurity framework and are not requiring annual cybersecurity training.

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**Completed Audits** 

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### **2023 Completed Audits**

### 2023-05: The Best Practice Handbook— A Practical Guide to Excellence for Utah Government

The Best Practice Handbook was developed as part of an effort to fulfill House Bill 326 and House Joint Resolution 6, passed in the 2021 General Session. This work was done with the GOPB and the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst to improve government operations, and to offer training when needed.

### 2023-06: A Performance Audit of Utah's State Energy Policy

This audit found that Utah's planning and data are limited to inform decision-making during a national energy transition. This puts our state's energy reliability and affordability at risk.

### 2023-07: A Performance Audit of the Collection, Protection, and Use of Personal Information by State Agencies

Current data collection and sharing practices by state agencies create data privacy risk. Statutory data privacy guardrails could alleviate the risk.

### 2023-08: Government Excellence: Follow-Up Low-Cost IT Procurement Efficiency Evaluation

Of the five recommendations made in the efficiency evaluation, three have been implemented and two are in process. Our office will follow up on the remaining two recommendations that are in process to support full implementation.

### 2023-09: A Limited Review of B and C Road Funds

This audit concluded that little risk existed regarding the oversight and use of B and C road funds.

### 2023-10: A High-Risk List: Identifying and Mitigating Critical Vulnerabilities in Utah—2023

The High-Risk List identifies programs, areas, and operations of critical vulnerability within the state that could cause significant negative impact in one of more of these three areas:

1) Injury or loss of life, 2) fiscal damages, or 3) impaired service delivery.

### Agency

### Legislative



























**Completed Audits** 

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### **2023 Completed Audits**

2023-11: A Systemic Performance Audit of the Park City School District

This audit concluded that Park City School District can improve its internal controls, monitoring of underperforming students, and strategic plan.

2023-12: Government Excellence: Office of the Medical Examiner Efficiency Evaluation Follow-Up

Of the four recommendations made in the efficiency evaluation, all four remain in process. Our office will follow up on all of these recommendations to support full implementation.

2023-13: A Performance Audit of the Intermountain Power Agency

This report recommends that the Legislature review IPA governance and governmental exemption and that the IPA Board provide greater Utah-specific planning.

2023-14: A Systemic Review of the Department of Commerce

This systemic performance audit of the Department of Commerce outlines improvements in the Division of Professional Licensing, the Division of Real Estate, and the Division of Securities.

2023-15: A Utah's Water Management

This report focuses on improving water data and information, utilizing best practices for good government when administering water programs, and strengthening water planning.

2023-16: A Performance Audit of Utah Housing Policy

This audit makes the case for state-level strategic planning and accountability through planning, incentives, and penalties.

2023-17: A Performance Audit of the Utah State Correctional Facility

The Utah Department of Corrections must address cultural and staffing concerns to ensure the safety and security of the Utah State Correctional Facility.

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**2020 Completed Follow-Ups** 

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### **Completed Follow-Ups**

\* Multi-year follow-ups focus only on **Agency Remaining Legislative Remaining** recommendations not previously Recommendations Recommendations **implemented** 2020-02: **A Performance Audit of** 1 In Process **Medicaid's Pharmacy Benefit Oversight** 2020-04: An In-Depth Budget Review of the Department of 1 In Process **Environmental Quality** 2020-06: 2 Implemented An In-Depth Follow-Up of 911 **Audits and Review of 911** 2020-07: A Performance Audit of the **Office of State Debt Collection** 2 Implemented 1 Partially Implemented 2020-08: . Implemented **A Performance Audit of the** In Process **Justice Reinvestment** In Process **Initiative** 



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20/21 Completed Follow-Ups

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### **Completed Follow-Ups**

**Legislative Remaining Agency Remaining** Recommendations Recommendations 2020-09: 2 In Process **A Performance Audit of Information Sharing in** 3 Not 5 Implemented the Criminal Justice Implemented Implemented **System** 1 Partially Implemented 2020-10: A Performance Audit of 2 Not **Court Fines and** Implemented Implemented Surcharges 2020-11: A Performance Audit of **Public Education's Governance Structure** 3 In Process 2021-01: An In-Depth Follow-Up of an **In-Depth Budget Review** 6 Implemented of the Department of **Natural Resources** 2021-02: 2 Implemented 1 In A Performance Audit of Process the Department of **Agriculture and Food's Brand Inspection Program** 



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**2021 Completed Follow-Ups** 

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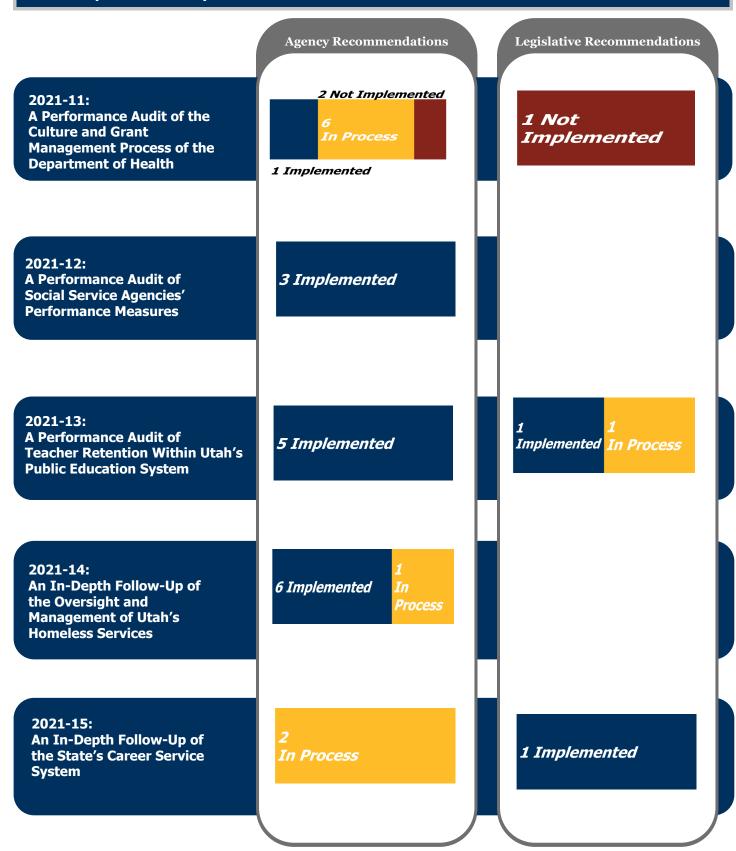
### **Completed Follow-Ups**

**Agency Remaining Legislative Remaining** Recommendations Recommendations 2021-04: 2 Implemented **A Performance Audit of** the Utah State Board of In Process **Education's Internal** 1 In Process Governance 1 Partially Implemented 1 Implemented 2021-05: **A Performance Audit of** 1 In the Division of Consumer **Process Protection** 2021-08: **An In-Depth Budget Review of the** Implemented In Process 1 In Process Department of **Agriculture** and Food 2021-09: 2 Partially **A Performance Audit of** Implemented **Utah's Charter School Governance Structure** 2021-10: A Performance Audit of the In Process **Division of Services for People with Disabilities** 1 Implemented



### Office of the Legislative Auditor General 2021 Completed Follow-Ups

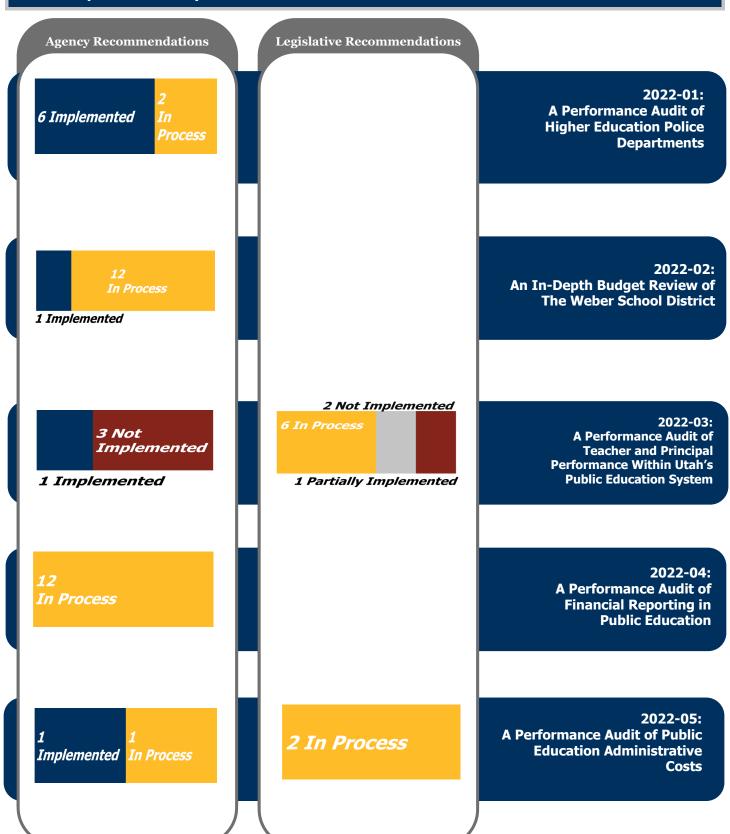
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### Office of the Legislative Auditor General 2022 Completed Follow-Ups

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### Office of the Legislative Auditor General 2022 Completed Follow-Ups

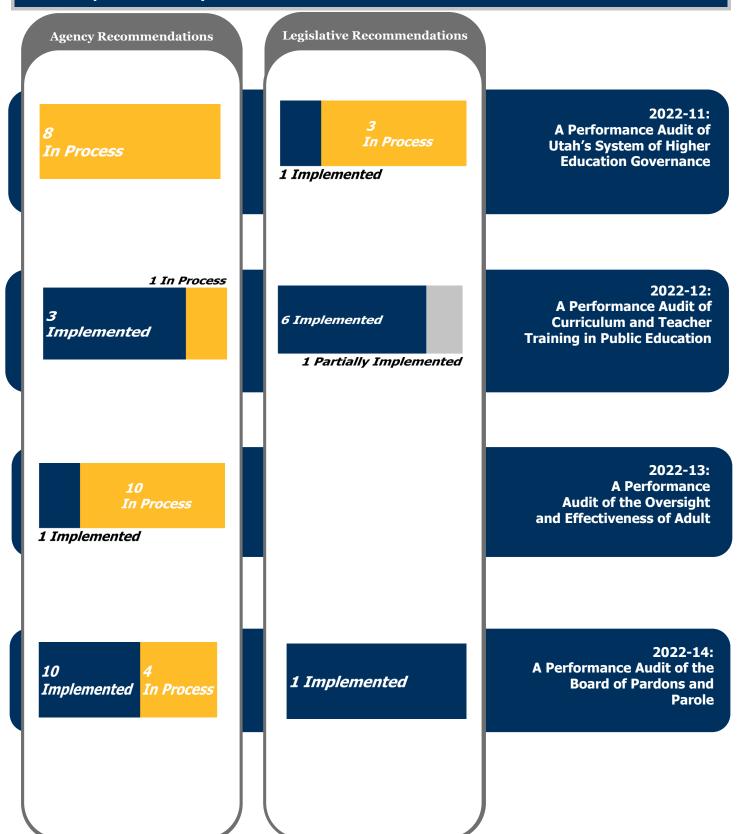
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**Agency Recommendations Legislative Recommendations** 2022-06: A Performance Audit of the 6 In 2 Implemented **Efficiency and Effectiveness of** Implemented **Process** the Division of Technology 2022-07: A Limited Review of the Utah 8 Implemented **Inland Port Authority** 2022-09: An In-Depth Budget **Review of the Utah Insurance** 3 Implemented Implemented In Process **Department** 2022-10: **A Performance Audit of Tax Increment Financing** In Process In Process



### Office of the Legislative Auditor General 2022 Completed Follow-Ups

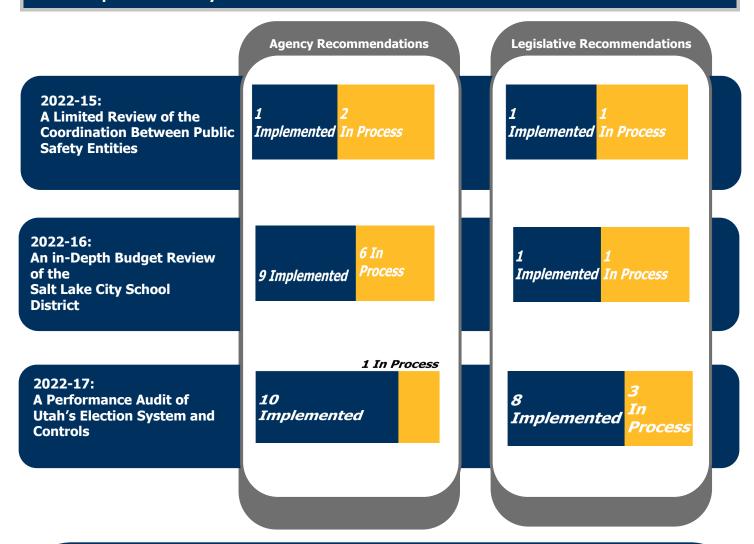
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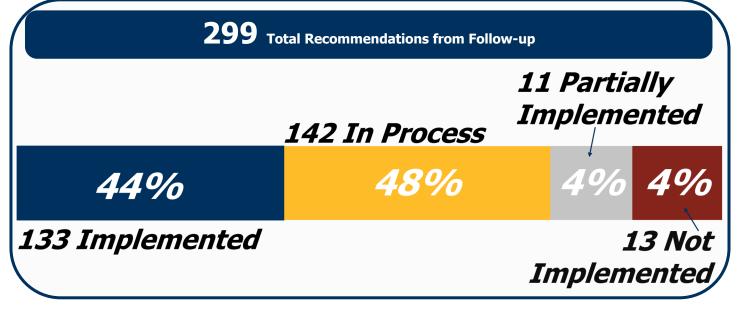




### Office of the Legislative Auditor General 2022 Completed Follow-Ups

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### Released Audits and Informal Reports • 2021- 2023

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—— Education ——-			
2021-04	The Utah State Board of Education's Internal		—— Social Services——
	Governance	2021-07	A Follow-Up Audit of the Safety and Security Within Local
2021-09	Utah's Charter School Governance Structure		Homeless Resource Centers
2021-13	Teacher Retention Within Utah's Public Education	2021-10	Division of Services for People with Disabilities
	System	2021-11	Culture and Grant Management Process of the
2022-02	An In-Depth Budget Review of the Weber School		Department of Health
2022-03	District Teacher and Principal Performance Within Utah's	2021-12	Social Service Agencies' Performance Measures
2022-03	Public Education System	2021-14	An In-Depth Follow-Up of the Oversight and
2022-04	Financial Reporting in Public Education		Management of Utah's Homeless Service System
2022-05	Public Education Administrative Costs		—— Transportation ——
2022-08	Comprehensive Education Audit Capstone		—— Hansportation ——
2022-12	Curriculum and Teacher Training in Public Education	2023-09	A Limited Review of B and C Road Funds
2022-16	An In-Depth Budget Review of the Salt Lake City School District		
2023-03	A Performance Audit of Space Utilization by the Utah Schools		F
2022 11	for the Deaf and Blind		— Environment——
2023-11	A Systemic Performance Audit of the Park City School District	2021-01	In-Depth Follow-Up of an In-Depth Budget Review of the
			Department of Natural Resources
	—— Higher Education ——	2021-02	Department of Agriculture and Food's Brand Inspection Program
	inglici Laacation	2023-13	A Performance Audit of the Intermountain Power
2022-01	Higher Education Police Departments		Agency
2022-11	Utah's System of Higher Education Governance	2023-15	Utah's Water Management: Ensuring Data Integrity, Program Best Practices, and Comprehensive Water Planning
	—— Local Government ——		0.1
2022-10	Tax Increment Financing		—— Other ——
2022-17	Utah's Election System and Controls	2021-05	The Division of Consumer Protection
2023-02	A Performance Audit of the San Juan County	2021-06	Utah Rural Jobs Act
	Commission	2021-15	An In-Depth Follow-Up of the State's Career Service System
	—— Public Safety ——	2022-A	Informal Poll of Utah Senate on United States Senate Candidates
2021-A	Decline in Traffic Violations Contributed to Lower Fines and	2022-06	Efficiency and Effectiveness of Technology Services
2021-A	Surcharges	2022-07	A Limited Review of the Utah Inland Port Authority
2021-В	Six-Month Follow-Up of 911 Call Answer Times for VECC	2022-09	An In-Depth Budget Review of the Utah Insurance Department
2021-C	and Salt Lake City 911 Twelve-Month Follow-Up of 911 Call Answer Times for VECC and	2023-04	A Performance Audit of Cybersecurity in the State of Utah
2021-C	Salt Lake City 911	2023-05	The Best Practice Handbook– A Practical Guide to
2021-16	A Limited Review of Warrants and Uncollected Fines and Fees		Excellence for Utah Government
2021-17	Healthcare in State Prisons	2023-06	A Performance Audit of Utah's State Energy Policy
2022-13	Oversight and Effectiveness of Adult Probation and Parole	2023-07	A Performance Audit of the Collection, Protection, and Use of Personal Information by State Agencies
2022-14	Board of Pardons and Parole	2023-08	Government Excellence: Follow-Up Low-Cost IT
2022-15	A Limited Review of the Coordination Between Public Safety		Procurement Efficiency Evaluation
2023-A	Entities Two Year Follow, up of 011 Call Anguar Times for VECC and Salt	2023-10	High-Risk List: Identifying and Mitigating Critical
2023-A	Two-Year Follow-up of 911 Call Answer Times for VECC and Salt Lake City 911		Vulnerabilities in Utah — 2023
2023-01	An In-Depth Follow-Up of Healthcare in State Prisons	2023-12	Government Excellence: Efficiency Evaluation Follow
2023-17	A Performance Audit of the Utah State Correctional Facility: An		Up Office of the Medical Examiner Efficiency
	Examination of Staffing, Culture, Safety, and Security	2023-14	Evaluation A Systemic Review of the Department of Commerce: An
		2023 14	Examination of Professional Licensing, Real Estate, and

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2023-16 A Performance Audit of Utah Housing Policy: A Case for Statewide Strategic Planning and Accountability













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